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BLST: BLACK WOMEN IN
THE ATLANTIC WORLD.

BLST [103-37063]
PROF. REMI ALAPO

The Black Warrior Woman:

Yaa Asantewaa

Yaa Asantewaa



"Now I see that some of you fear to go forward
Okomfo Anokye, and Okoku Ware, chiefs who

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Introduction:

A Black women are women of Afro diasporic descent and some other part descents. The term 'Black' is a racial appearance of a person, the definition that has shifted over time and across cultures. However, different racial put their judgmental on 'Black' people. A Black women has suffered enough in the community and society; they are described as being hit by a whammy to the social biases encountered by Black women for being females as well of their own race community.

Feminism is the belief of women have issue of equality and equity based on gender; gender expression, gender identity, sex; sexuality as understanding through social biases and political activism. After so many years, Black women has stood for themselves and fight back their rights, they've became warriors in different ways.

- **Background**

- Yaa Asantewaa was a Ghanaian warrior queen Mother of Ejisu in the Ashanti Empire.
- Now day Ghana, appointed by her brother Nana Akwasi Afrane Opese, the ruler of Edwesu.
- She was born on October 17, 1840, at Besease, Ghana.
- She died on October 17, 1921.
- She led the war of Ashanti in 1900, known as the War of the Golden Stool, also known as Yaa Asantewaa war against British colonialism.
- She was a mother and successful farmer. A human rights activist, an intellectual, and politician.



- Yaa Asantewaa was married with a man from Kumasi and had a daughter.
- She is one among of African women who changed the world, which aims to shed light on great African women whose stories deserve to be heard.
- British was colonized some countries in Africa. One of them was Ghana.
- She led the war against British (April 1900) and suddenly she became a "wanted person" ; toward the end of 1900.
- David Kimble was a Political History of Ghana. He described the nations as "the nearest approximation to a modern nation that was reached independently of European influence".
- European had been in touch with Africans in these coastal areas of West Africa since the late 15th century and colonized them.

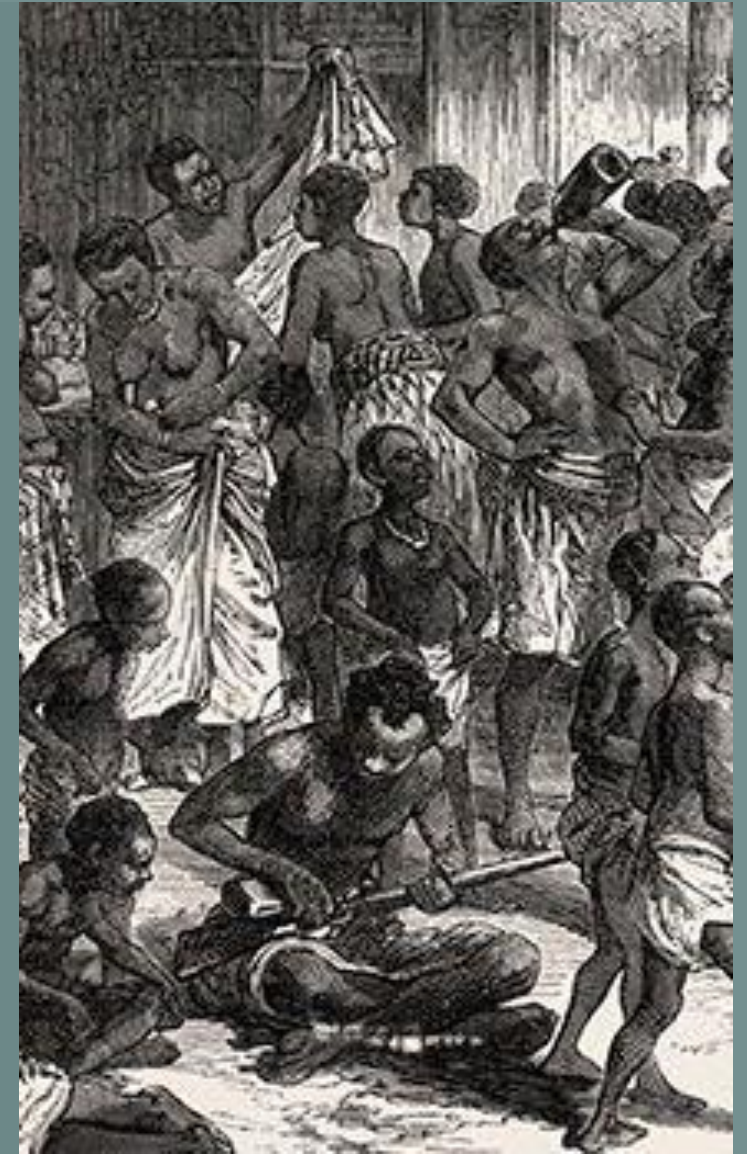
Black women Challenges

African women had suffered so much lately. In so many years women were seen as weak people, however, some west African women have become powerful and rule the country and protected the feminism.

- Yaa Asantewaa became a queen warrior to go against of womanism and get released from European colonist.
- The Ashanti people began to rebel against British presence in their lands and the British attempt to construct the "Gold Coast".
- The British removed the king of Ashanti and other Ashanti leaders to the Seychelles Island to acquire the Golden Coast.
- While the leaders was debated on how to best respond British threat. Asantewaa held her rallied troops and ground. She became too role as commander in chief of the Ashanti army.
- The war 'The Golden Coast' began on March 28,1900.

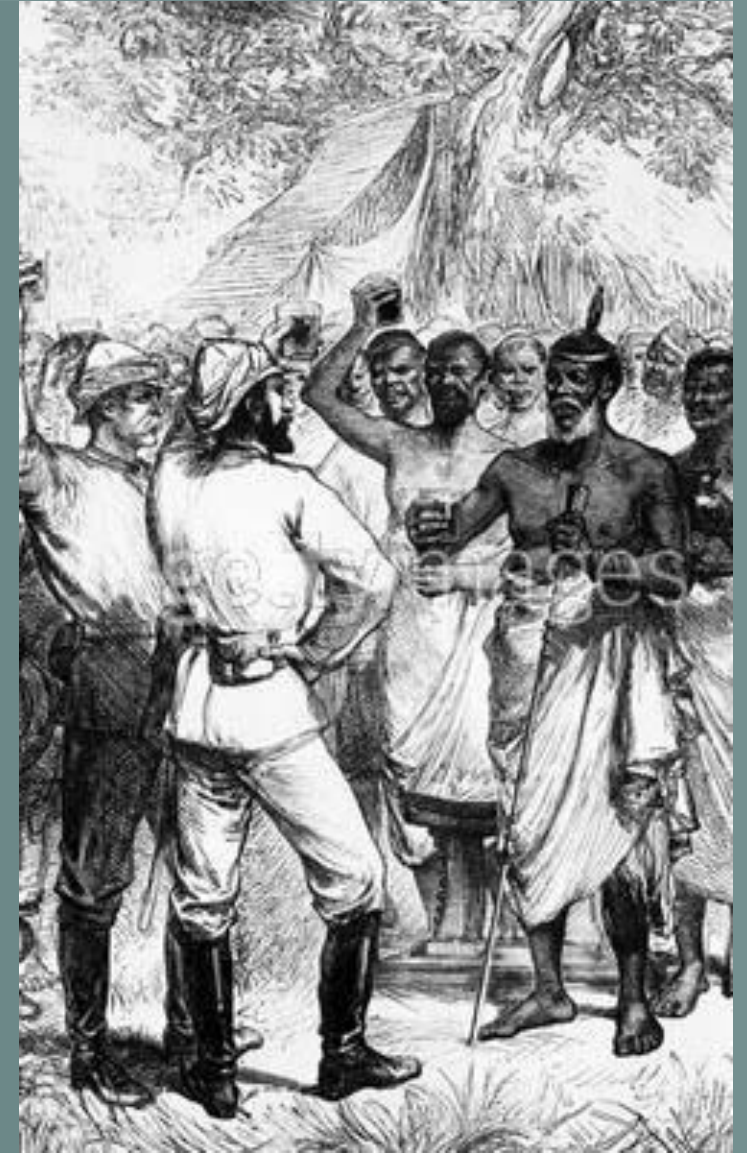


- The war began when British representative sat on the Golden Stool; Sr. Frederick Mitchell Hodgson. The wasn't known as the throne but when Hodgson acted like he own the throne.
- Yaa Asantewaa led the rebellion which result of 1,000 of British and allied African soldier and 2,000 Ashanti dead.
- Yaa Asantewaa proclaimed, if the men of the kingdom wouldn't defend the people, then the women would rise to the challenge. It gave both strength to men and challenged the gender roles.
- Men thought women wouldn't and couldn't have strength to fight back what is theirs.
- She remains powerful reminders to other people the way she stood for her people and against British. <https://youtu.be/1C-aDqgVqzY>



The Rebellion and After

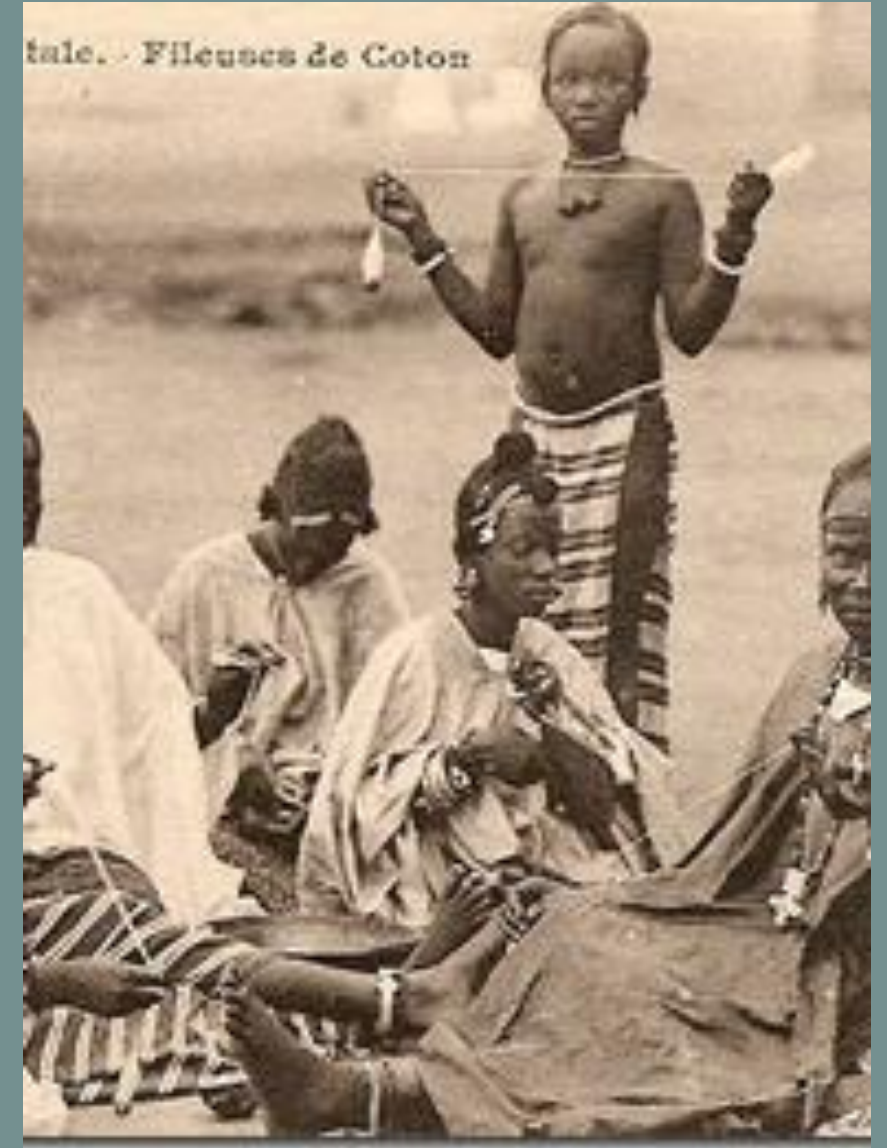
- The rebellion laid the military operation to fort at Kumasi where British had sought refuge.
- The Gold Coast governor eventually sent a huge number of force to put an end the rebellion. However, during the fight, Queen Asantewaa and her 15 closest advisers were captured, and they were sent to Seychelles.
- British finally append the territory that the Asante Empire had been controlling for centuries. And the Asante was transformed a protectorate of the British crown.



Asantewaa's Roles.

- Asantewaa was warrior woman in West African, Ghana. She fought her country's independent.
- She's seen by Ghanaians today as a Queen Mother who participated well in political and social clout to help defend her kingdom.
- Her role was influenced Ashanti men to battle the British appears to be a function of her matriarchal status.
- She help women to become strong and fight for their rights and country. She influenced the country that women must be respected in society, legislative and judicial process.
- The women had become more responsible for their protection, and they had participated in political party and other fields in Ghana.
- They was another woman leader who sat on the stool in Kumasi state. Female stool occupants participated not only in the legislative and judicial process, but also in decided the action of war, and the distribution of land.
- https://youtu.be/KVwYbbw57_A?t=19

- Women are influenced by another woman on how to stand for themselves. As Asantewaa was warrior, the Ghanaian women become strong and fight for their rights.
- Men will always think women don't have enough strength by their own.
- Racism and sexism should stop so the world and its people would feel love and needed. But if we hate the opposite race, we'll always fight and think everyone's race is better than the other.
- Whites always have more power than black especially Africans, because they think they own everything on the world. In centuries, British had colonized majority of African countries and ruled African countries the way they wanted.
- Women also were assaulted by men and sought as men's satisfaction tool. Women had no rights to speak in public, was not able to work outside her house or home.
- When a woman like Asantewaa encourages another woman, they become motivated to stay stronger in their community.



- Women and adolescent girls were normally followed camps and performed commissariat duties. Royal females of Kumasi accompanied the Asntehene, Ofibiriti Osei Yaw Akoto (1823-34). It appears from the events following the war that women were generally desired as hostages.
- The women military role, was to engage in performance to dances and singing in support the men who went at war. Women gave men encourage to war, however, take a dramatic and



CONCLUSION

- Yaa Asantewaa role in 1900 resistance war exceeded the normal political and military roles of Asante women. She wanted women to fight at war instead of men, also men chose her as first female war leader.
- However, the war she led was lost because they knew that British had more weapons than them Ghanaians.
- She was exiled and lived in heart of Asante people.
- She shall for long be remembered as a personal symbol of Asante's final stand against British imperialism, and for Asante, gender was irrelevant to leadership.



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